

Message Text

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USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1668

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC

SUBJECT: MARCH 25 NPG PERMREPS MEETING ON THEATER NUCLEAR
FORCES REPORT TO CONGRESS

REF: A. USNATO 1024

B. USNATO 0636

SUMMARY. AT MARCH 25 NPG PERMREPS MEETING, MR. DONALD COTTER (ATSD/AE) ANSWERED QUESTIONS AND RECEIVED COMMENTS ON THE REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THEATER NUCLEAR FORCE POSTURE IN EUROPE, REQUIRED BY THE NUNN AMENDMENT. SYG LUNS REQUESTED A PROGRESS REPORT ON FURTHER ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT AT SPRING 1975 NPG MINISTERIAL. PERM REPS' QUESTIONS CONCENTRATED ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MBFR AND THE REPORT, AND ON HANDLING PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT. COTTER EMPHASIZED THAT THE REPORT MAKES CLEAR THAT ANY POSSIBLE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ADJUSTMENTS WILL HINGE ON SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES OF MBFR. COTTER ASSURED
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PERMREPS THAT THE REPORT WOULD BE CLASSIFIED, AND THAT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON THE REPORT WOULD BE HELD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION, WHICH SHOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSULTATION WITH NATO CONCERNING PUBLIC RELEASE OF INFORMATION DIRECTLY AFFECTING NATO.

PERMREPS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RECEIVING FURTHER PROGRESS REPORTS ON THIS SUBJECT. SYG LUNS EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO US FOR HEARING NATO'S VIEWS ON THESE IMPORTANT MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, SYG LUNS ASKED COTTER TO CONVEY TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER A REQUEST BY THE NPG FOR A PROGRESS REPORT ON FURTHER ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT AT THE SPRING 1975 NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING. MR. COTTER AGREED TO DO SO.

2. IN INTRODUCING COTTER, AMBASSADOR BRUCE (US) NOTED THAT WHILE THE REPORT WAS IN FINAL FORM, ANY COMMENTS BY PERMREPS WOULD BE USEFUL TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER IN HIS FURTHER COMMUNICATIONS WITH CONGRESS ON THE SUBJECT. HE ADDED THAT REPORT WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO DELEGATIONS AND NMA'S AFTER THE MEETING.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) ON HOW THE FINAL NUNN AMENDMENT REPORT TREATS MBFR, COTTER SAID THAT IT NOTES THAT ANY POSSIBLE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ADJUSTMENTS WILL HINGE ON SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES OF MBFR. HE FURTHER SAID THE REPORT CAUTIONS AGAINST ANY PRECIPITIOUS ACTION. HE SAID THAT THERE IS A GREAT SYMPATHY WITH THIS APPROACH IN CONGRESS AND THAT NO ONE IN CONGRESS WANTS TO "ROCK THE BOAT" ON MBFR.

4. BOSS (FRG) NOTED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WANTED TO STUDY THE REPORT IN BONN AND THEN RAISE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS AFTER THE REPORT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO CONGRESS ON APRIL 1. HE THEN COMMENTED ON MR. COTTER'S MARCH 6, 1975 UNCLASSIFIED STATEMENT TO THE MANPOWER SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, WHICH MISSION DISTRIBUTED TO NPG DELEGATIONS AFTER MARCH 18 PERMREP MEETING. HE SAID HE HAD FOUND THE USE OF THE EXPRESSION "NEED FOR CHANGE" IN PARA 2 OF THE STATEMENT, IN REFERENCE TO THEATER NUCLEAR POSTURE, SOMEWHAT MISLEADING. COTTER SAID THAT THE WORDS USED IN THAT STATEMENT WERE THOSE USED IN SACEUR'S EVALUATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEPLOYMENTS, AND ADDED THAT HIS REMARKS MADE BEFORE THE MANPOWER SUBCOMMITTEE ON THAT OCCASION HAD APPARENTLY NOT BEEN PICKED UP BY THE PRESS.

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5. PECK (UK) SAID HIS CONCERN WITH HANDLING THE REPORT WAS TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY ERRONEOUS PERCEPTION DEVELOPING IN THE WARSAW PACT; THE QUESTION IS HOW TO DO THIS. HE SAID CONTINUING CONSULTATION WITH NATO WILL BE NECESSARY TO AVOID DEVELOPMENT OF ANY SUCH ERRONEOUS PERCEPTION, AND ADDED THAT HE WAS SURE THE US WOULD PROVIDE IT. HE SAID THAT RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN NATO RELATING TO MBFR INDICATED ADOPTION OF A KIND OF "SELF-DENYING ORDINANCE." HE SAID HE WAS GLAD TO SEE THAT THE POINT, RECENTLY MADE WITH RESPECT TO THE NETHERLANDS, UK AND OTHERS, THAT REDUCTIONS IN FORCES SHOULD NOT BE MADE WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS IN NATO, WOULD NOW SEEM TO APPLY WITH RESPECT TO AMERICAN NUCLEAR FORCES, AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE IN ADVANCE OF MBFR AGREEMENT IN VIENNA. COTTER

GENERALLY AGREED WITH PECK'S POINT.

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6. MENZIES (CANADA) SAID THAT ALL ARE CURIOUS ABOUT THE PROCESS BEING INITIATED IN CONGRESS AND ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PREDICT FORM IN WHICH COMMITTEES MAY HOLD DISCUSSION IN THE COMING WEEKS. HE SAID THAT HE EXPECTED US PUBLIC WOULD BE GRAPPLING WITH THESE ISSUES AND THAT OTHER PUBLICS AND PARLIAMENTS WILL EXPRESS VIEWS AS DEBATE UNFOLDS. HE ADDED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF GOVERNMENTS COULD BE WARNED SO THEY COULD ANTICIPATE PUBLIC DISCUSSION. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE WAS NOT SATISFIED THAT THE SECRET CLASSIFICATION ALONE WOULD ANSWER THESE CONCERNS. SYG LUNS ADDED HIS SUPPORT TO THESE VIEWS AND UNDERLINED POINT 6 OF HIS LETTER TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER (REF A) WHICH STRESSES ALLIES CONCERN TO PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATIONS IN ALL PHASES OF STUDIES COMMISSIONED BY THE NUNN AMENDMENT. COTTER ANSWERED THAT REPORT WOULD GO TO FIVE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES, WHERE CLASSIFIED MATERIAL ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN HANDLED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. COMMITTEES THEN FORWARD CLASSIFIED TESTIMONY TO DOD FOR EXAMINATION AND DE-CLASSIFICATION, AS NECESSARY. HE SAID THAT DOD WOULD HAVE TIME

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TO REVIEW DOCUMENTS AND DELETE CLASSIFIED MATERIAL WHERE NECESSARY, AND WOULD HAVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVISE OR CONSULT

WITH NATO PRIOR TO RELEASING INFORMATION THAT MAY HAVE DIRECT EFFECT ON NATO.

7. GEN SHAEFER (MC), RAISING QUESTION ON QRA, NOTED THAT CMCM-8-75, DATED 31 JANUARY 1975 (REF B) HAD POINTED OUT THAT THEATER NUCLEAR FORCE POSTURE MUST PROVIDE FOR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION BY THOSE NATIONS POSSESSING OR SUPPORTING NUCLEAR STRIKE FORCES. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SACEUR'S PERSONAL SUMMARY TO THE SACEUR EVALUATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEPLOYMENTS, DATED JANUARY 17, 1975, SAID THAT DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE TARGET ARRAY WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO DETERMINE WITH PRECISION HOW MISSILES COULD BEST SUBSTITUTE FOR AIR DELIVERED WEAPONS. HE THEN ASKED HOW QRA IS COVERED IN THE REPORT. COTTER SAID THE SUBJECT WAS COVERED, AND REMINDED MC REP THAT BOTH THE MC REPORT AND SACEUR'S PERSONAL SUMMARY ARE ANNEXES TO THE REPORT TO CONGRESS. HE ADDED THAT JCS IS PREPARING A PAPER DEALING WITH POSSIBLE POSEIDON/QRA ADJUSTMENTS, WHICH THEY WILL FORWARD THROUGH THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO SACEUR FOR CONSIDERATION.

8. CATALANO (ITALY) NOTED THAT NPG MINISTERS WILL GET A REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT AT JUNE MEETING, AND ASKED WHETHER US MIGHT PROVIDE A PROGRESS REPORT TO PERMREPS ABOUT TWO WEEKS BEFORE MEETING, TO MAKE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION MORE MEANINGFUL. COTTER ANSWERED THAT THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

9. SYG LUNS ASKED IF NATO COULD WAIT FOR THE NUNN AMENDMENT FOLLOW-ON STUDIES BEFORE DECIDING WHAT TO DO IN MBFR, SO THAT NATO WOULD KNOW SIZE, COMPOSITION, ETC, OF THE NUCLEAR STOCKPILE (PRESUMABLE SO THAT NATO WOULD HAVE BETTER IDEA OF WHAT REDUCTIONS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE). COTTER ANSWERED THAT SOME OF THESE STUDIES SHOULD BE DONE IN 6 MONTHS TO A YEAR, WHILE OTHERS MAY CONTINUE OVER SEVERAL YEARS. HE ADDED THAT HE EXPECTS MODERNIZATION WILL PUT NEW WEAPONS IN US INVENTORY, AND, HE WOULD HOPE, INTO OTHER NATO INVENTORIES, TOO

SYG LUNS NOTED HE BELIEVED IT COULD BE UNFORTUNATE FROM POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW IF SUBMARINE MISSILES WERE SUBSTITUTED FOR THEATER NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) NOTED HIS DISAGREEMENT WITH LUNS ON THAT POINT.

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10. SYG LUNS EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO COTTER, BRUCE, AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER FOR HEARING NATO'S VIEWS ON THESE IMPORTANT MATTERS AND ASKED MR. COTTER TO RELAY TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER THAT HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MONTEREY MEETING. IN CLOSING REMARKS, BRUCE SAID THAT US HAD PROFITED FROM CONSULTATIONS TO DATE ON THIS SUBJECT, AND THAT WORK ON ASPECTS OF OUR THEATER NUCLEAR FORCE POSTURE WILL BE A CONTINUING PROCESS IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN NATO. BRUCE

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